GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3142
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006
CONDITION OF INDIAN SPORTS
Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a)Whether in comparison to the rest of the world, the condition of Indian sports is not good enough ;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) Whether there is huge shortage of sports infrastructure and training facilities in the country ;

(d) If so, whether the Union Government is planning to restore the Central assistance for building up sports infrastructure which was discontinued in the past ;

(e) If so, the details thereof;

(f) Whether the Union Government proposes to provide assistance for establishing a Sports Authority Centre in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh ; and

(g) If not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EAST REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a)to(e) : Although Indian sportspersons in some disciplines like Shooting, Archery, etc. have shown impressive performances at the international level in the recent past, it is true that a great deal remains to be done to significantly improve the standard of sports in the country.

The primary responsibility for the creation of the sports facilities rests with the State Governments. However, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has set up training centers all over the country, and efforts are being made, on a continuing basis, to strengthen, expand and upgrade the infrastructure and facilities in these centers.

While there is no proposal to restore the discontinued 10th Plan schemes for the provision of Central assistance to State Governments and other institutions and organizations for sports related infrastructure and equipment, etc., keeping in view the shortage of sports infrastructure and facilities, particularly in the rural areas, the Ministry is actively considering the launching of `Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan` with the aim of significantly enhancing access to organized sports and games facilities for the vast sections of the youth in the rural areas, not only as an integral element of youth development and promotion of a sports culture but, also for widening the catchment for spotting and nurturing of sports talent and promotion of excellence in sports. Detailed discussions have also been held in this regard with the State Governments and the other Ministries and stakeholders concerned.

(f) & (g) : There is no proposal to establish a Sports Authority Centre in Satna, M.P. The Sports Authority of India is already running SAI Training Centres in Madhya Pradesh at Dhar, Bhopal, Tikamgarh and Jabalpur and has its regional center and a Centre of Excellence at Bhopal. SAI is also facing shortage of coaching staff, etc., and it will not be feasible at this stage to open another SAI Training Centre at Satna.